

meet during the session of the Senate, on November 6, 2013, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "One Year Later: Examining the Ongoing Recovery from Hurricane Sandy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on November 6, 2013, to conduct a hearing entitled "Transportation: A Challenge to Independence for Seniors."

The Committee will meet in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building beginning at 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise to ask unanimous consent that my intern, Chloe Becker, who is shadowing me today, be accorded full privileges of the floor for the balance of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lauren Sarkesian and Jennifer Lucas of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HOMELESS VETERANS EXPANSION ACT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 197, S. 287.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 287) to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of a homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment and an amendment to the title, as follows:

S. 287

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Helping Homeless Veterans Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF HOMELESS VETERAN FOR PURPOSES OF BENEFITS UNDER THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 2002(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "in section 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a))" and inserting "in subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)".

SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO GRANT PROGRAM FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FOR PROGRAMS

THAT ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS.—Subsection (a) of section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the matter before paragraph (1)—

(1) by striking "or modifying" and inserting "modifying, or maintaining"; and

(2) by inserting "privately, safely, and securely," before "the following".

(b) REQUIREMENT THAT RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS MEET PHYSICAL PRIVACY, SAFETY, AND SECURITY NEEDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(6) To meet the physical privacy, safety, and security needs of homeless veterans receiving services through the project."

SEC. 4. INCREASED PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE THAT BECOMES PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2012(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) through (D) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated, by striking "in subparagraph (D)" and inserting "in subparagraph (E)";

(3) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated, by striking "under subparagraph (B)" and inserting "under subparagraph (C)";

(4) in subparagraph (E), as redesignated, by striking "in subparagraphs (B) and (C)" and inserting "in subparagraphs (C) and (D)"; and

(5) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking "The rate" and inserting "Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (B), the rate"; and

(B) by striking "under subparagraph (B)" and all that follows through the end and inserting the following: "under subparagraph (C)."

"(B)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), in no case may the rate determined under this paragraph exceed the rate authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of that section.

"(ii) In the case of services furnished to a homeless veteran who is placed in housing that will become permanent housing for the veteran upon termination of the furnishing of such services to such veteran, the maximum rate of per diem authorized under this section is 150 percent of the rate described in clause (i)."

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS FOR FURNISHING CARE TO DEPENDENTS OF CERTAIN HOMELESS VETERANS.

Subsection (a) of section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) Services for which a recipient of a grant under section 2011 of this title (or an entity described in paragraph (1)) may receive per diem payments under this subsection may include furnishing care for a dependent of a homeless veteran who is under the care of such homeless veteran while such homeless veteran receives services from the grant recipient (or entity)."

SEC. 6. REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSESS COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall assess and measure the capacity of programs for which entities receive grants under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, or per diem payments under section 2012 or 2061 of such title.

(b) ASSESSMENT AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.—In assessing and measuring under subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop and use tools to examine the capacity of programs described in such subsection at both the national and local level in order to assess the following:

(1) Whether sufficient capacity exists to meet the needs of homeless veterans in each geographic area.

(2) Whether existing capacity meets the needs of the subpopulations of homeless veterans located in each geographic area.

(3) The amount of capacity that recipients of grants under sections 2011 and 2061 and per diem payments under section 2012 of such title have to provide services for which the recipients are eligible to receive per diem under section 2012(a)(2)(B)(ii) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 4(5)(B).

(c) USE OF INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall use the information collected under this section as follows:

(1) To set specific goals to ensure that programs described in subsection (a) are effectively serving the needs of homeless veterans.

(2) To assess whether programs described in subsection (a) are meeting goals set under paragraph (1).

(3) To inform funding allocations for programs described in subsection (a).

(4) To improve the referral of homeless veterans to programs described in subsection (a).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the assessment required by subsection (b) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on such assessment and such recommendations for legislative and administrative action as the Secretary may have to improve the programs and per diem payments described in subsection (a).

SEC. 7. EXPANSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DENTAL CARE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2062(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"(b) ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—(1) Subsection (a) applies to a veteran who—

"(A) is enrolled for care under section 1705(a) of this title; and

"(B) for a period of 60 consecutive days, is receiving—

"(i) assistance under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)); or

"(ii) care (directly or by contract) in any of the following settings:

"(I) A domiciliary under section 1710 of this title.

"(II) A therapeutic residence under section 2032 of this title.

"(III) Community residential care coordinated by the Secretary under section 1730 of this title.

"(IV) A setting for which the Secretary provides funds for a grant and per diem provider.

"(V) A setting—

"(aa) in which the veteran is receiving transitional housing assistance;

"(bb) for which funding is not provided for transitional housing assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary;

"(cc) for which the Secretary receives verification from the provider of care that the veteran is receiving care for a period of 60 consecutive days; and

"(dd) from which the Secretary determines that the veteran cannot reasonably access comparable dental services at no cost and in a reasonable period of time.

"(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), in determining whether a veteran has received assistance or care for a period of 60 consecutive days, the Secretary may disregard breaks in the continuity of assistance or care for which the veteran is not responsible."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.